

What is the Environmental Commissioner?

The Environmental Commissioner is appointed by the Legislature to monitor and report on the application of the *Environmental Bill of Rights*.

The Environmental Commissioner makes sure the government meets the requirements of the *Environmental Bill of Rights* by:

1. Monitoring how the Environmental Registry is used.
2. Receiving review and investigation applications.
3. Receiving complaints about employer reprisals.
4. Monitoring court actions.
5. Monitoring the way ministries handle reviews and investigations.
6. Working with the 14 ministries and the public to ensure the EBR is effective.

Where can I get more information?

The best way to protect the environment is to know and respect the *Environmental Bill of Rights*.

Contact the Office of the Environmental Commissioner — we'll be happy to answer your questions.

Address:

Office of the Environmental Commissioner
Suite 605, 1075 Bay St.
Toronto, ON
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A Guide To The Environmental Bill Of Rights And

The Environmental Commissioner



What is the Environmental Bill of Rights?

The *Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR)* is a law that gives everyone in Ontario the right to participate in environmental decision-making. Fourteen ministries are subject to the *EBR*.

The goal of the *EBR* is to:

1. Protect, conserve and restore the natural environment.
2. Provide environmental sustainability.
3. Protect peoples' right to a healthful environment.

What are my rights under the EBR?

The *EBR* gives you the right to:

1. Comment on government decisions that are environmentally significant.
2. Make sure the government is accountable for environmental decisions.
3. Take action if your employer is harming the environment without fear of reprisal.
4. Go to court to protect the environment.

5. Comment on proposed laws, appeal environmental decisions, review laws and ask for investigations.

For example, if you want an environmental decision reviewed or investigated, send your request to the Office of the Environmental Commissioner. The minister decides whether or not to review or investigate the matter. The Environmental Commissioner monitors how the ministry handles your request.

You'll find each ministry's SEV on the Environmental Registry. You can use the SEV to assess any ministry decision that is environmentally significant.

What is the Environmental Registry?

The Environmental Registry gives you the information you need to participate in environmental decision making.

This computerized bulletin board has general information on the *EBR*, each ministry's Statement of Environmental Values, and ministry proposals for environmental laws and programs.

You can access the Registry through your public library, your home computer or a computer network. You can comment on any proposal on the Registry. Ministries must consider your comments.

For more details on using the Environmental Registry, contact our office.

What is a Statement of Environmental Values?

Each of the 14 ministries under the *EBR* have a **Statement of Environmental Values (SEV)**.

These statements explain:

1. How the ministry considers the environment when it makes decisions.
2. How the ministry applies the *Environmental Bill of Rights* when it makes decisions.

